

App. No. 09/665,105
Amend. dated March 19, 2004
Resp. to Office Action dated Sept. 24, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This supplemental amendment is presented following a telephone call from the Examiner on April 15, 2004 who pointed out that claim 30 is an independent claim which was not amended in accordance with the changes presented with the amendment of March 19, 2004.

Accordingly, claim 30 has now been amended to recite the presence of the wedge shaped plate and is now consistent with the change previously made in independent claim 20.

The rejection of Claims 2, 3, and 20 to 30, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the *Ishii* reference is again traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for reasons of record.

The following comments apply to claim 30 which has been amended to refer to the wedge shaped plate.

Reference is again made to the previously submitted partial copy of the Japanese Patent Publication relied on in the Official Action in which the description as to the "attaching spacer 7" is outlined in red. The only disclosure of the "attaching spacer 7" appears in paragraph 0010 of the Japanese language document at pg. 3, col. 1 thereof.

As previously explained, the Japanese reference describes the attaching spacer as being a plate made of hard resin or hard rubber which absorbs the inaccuracy of form of the attaching part 26 and absorbs the vibration transmitted to the camera stay 8. The purpose of the attaching spacer 7 is to provide a supporting device for an on-vehicle stereo camera system which is capable of keeping the distance measure accuracy within a permitted limit by preventing the distortion and the vibration of the camera stay 8.

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Figure 3 in the Japanese reference, is an exploded perspective view which shows the support device for a on-vehicle stereo camera system. The top component 6 indicates an attaching part which is attached on the inside to the roof of the vehicle.

The camera stay 8 is fixed with three bolts to the vehicle side attaching part 6 in area 25, such that the board shaped attaching spacer 7 is sandwiched between the attaching part 6 and the camera stay 8.

There is no disclosure of a taper (or wedge shaped) plate; that is, plates having a taper so that the most adequate taper angle can be selected to allow the optical axis of the stereo cameras to be carefully adjusted so as to be directed into the predetermined correct direction. Applicant's invention enables the selection of a tapered plate with the correct dimensions so as to solve the problem of incorrect alignment of optical axes of the cameras.

This is neither disclosed nor suggested in the Japanese patent which simply shows a plate of even dimension with no tapering or adjustment possibility. In fact, the non-tapered plate shown in the Japanese reference is made of a hard resin or hard rubber and, therefore, can be compressed to some extent when the three bolts are tightened. But there is no teaching that the plate serves any function in the adjustment of the direction of the optical axis of the right or left cameras so that the axis will be correctly aligned in the desired direction. Hence, a person skilled in the art would find no information in the reference as to how to solve the misalignment problem.

The functioning of applicant's invention is explained in the application, for example, on pg. 3, beginning on line 3; pg. 5, beginning at line 33; and continuing on to pg. 6, lines 1-8.

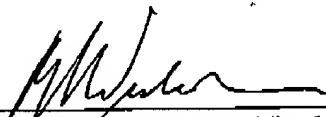
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The feature of the tapering plates which permits the adjustment of the axis is entirely lacking in the cited Japanese publication; and, therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 30 as well as all the above listed claims should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and discussion, applicant requests favorable consideration at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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